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THE 1958 WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE RESERVE



#344 Winter wheat farmers now have another opportunity to take part in the Acreage Reserve program of the Soil Bank.

All farmers with an "old farm" wheat acreage allotment for 1958, who usually grow winter wheat have until October 4 to sign a Reserve agreement with their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committee.

By taking part in the wheat Acreage Reserve, farmers will:

- • **Earn special payments to offset loss of net profits from the land which is held out of production under the program.**
- • **Have a guaranteed income for the acreage in the Reserve, even though drought, flood, or other natural disaster hits the farm during the year.**
- • **Join with other wheat producers in a cooperative effort to reduce the burdensome surpluses which depress the market.**

Farmers with limited financial reserves or with debts are finding this overall income insurance an important protection while it is available.

More than 233,000 wheat producers put nearly 13 million acres of their farm wheat acreage allotments in the wheat Acreage Reserve for this year (1957 crop). They thereby became eligible for payments of almost 231 million dollars.

The Acreage Reserve is an "annual" program. Payments are earned by taking out of production, for one year, a specific number of acres from the farm wheat acreage allotment.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Stabilization Service

How to Take Part

The 1958 wheat Acreage Reserve is a voluntary program. Each farmer will decide whether to participate. Producers who do take part will sign an Acreage Reserve agreement with their county ASC committee designating the tract (or tracts) of land on their farm to be put under the program. Land for the Acreage Reserve must be land that would be suitable for producing wheat in 1958. Land already in the Soil Bank Conservation Reserve is not eligible to be designated for the Acreage Reserve.

Farm Soil Bank Base

A Soil Bank farm base will be established for each farm taking part in the 1958 Acreage Reserve program. This "base," similar to that already in effect for farms participating in the Conservation Reserve program, is the average of the amount of land from which Soil Bank base crops were harvested on a farm in the two years 1956 and 1957. Soil Bank base crops include wheat; corn; cotton; tobacco; rice; peanuts (harvested for nuts or hay, or hogged off); other small grains harvested for grain, hay or ensilage; field and canning peas and beans; oilseed crops harvested for seed, hay, or ensilage; potatoes (including sweetpotatoes); sugar beets and sugar cane; sudan; millet; annual rye grass and similar annual grasses if harvested for seed; mangels and cow beets; all vegetables, berries, melons, and cantaloups; and specialty crops such as mint. The farm garden for home use is not counted as part of the farm Soil Bank base.

In Acreage Reserve agreements, participating farmers agree to limit their harvested crops to their farm "Soil Bank base," minus the amount of land in the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve. This acreage for harvest is called the "permitted acreage."

The Soil Bank base for a farm will be established by the county ASC committee. However, it is the responsibility of farmers who expect to take part in the 1958 Acreage Reserve program to furnish to their county ASC office their acreage records of all Soil Bank base crops for 1956 and 1957. These acreage records must be in the hands of the county ASC committee in time for the committee to establish the farm Soil Bank base before an agreement can be signed.

If a "base" already has been established for a farm because of participation in the Conservation Reserve, that "base" will be used for Acreage Reserve purposes.

Extent of Participation

The wheat acreage which can be put into the reserve is limited to the farm wheat allotment. While a farmer may put as many wheat allotment acres under the program as he wishes, the law now places a \$3,000 limitation on Acreage Reserve payments.

NOTE: Wheat farmers won't lose production history. Land put in the wheat Acreage Reserve will be counted as land devoted to the production of wheat in the determination of future farm, county, or State wheat acreage allotments.

Termination of Agreements

Farmers who sign agreements before October 4, 1957, may cancel or replace their agreements up to that date. After the winter wheat Acreage Reserve signup is completed, agreements cannot be cancelled by the wheat producers except in "new" commercial corn counties. Wheat producers in those "new" counties, who have corn allotments for the first time, will have a later cancellation deadline date.

Compliance

Failure to comply with wheat and all other acreage allotments assigned to a farm will make the operator ineligible for payment. Farmers who are not in compliance with certain provisions of the agreement will be subject to a civil penalty equal to one-half the payment which would have been made for compliance, in addition to loss of the payment. These provisions are: (1) harvesting a crop from the designated reserve; (2) harvesting more acres of wheat than the farm wheat allotment less the wheat Acreage Reserve; (3) ~~harvesting more acres of Soil Bank base crops than the permitted acres;~~ and (4) grazing the designated Acreage Reserve.

What Can Be Done on the Acreage Reserve

Erosion and noxious weeds must be controlled on the Acreage Reserve. Cover crops may be planted on the designated acreage, but they

may not be harvested. The reserve is eligible for cost-sharing practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program. County ASC offices have information on approved cover crops, cost-sharing payments, and other details.

Acreage Reserve Payments

County ASC committees will establish the per-acre payment rate for land designated for the wheat Acreage Reserve on each farm before an agreement is signed. The national average rate of payment per acre is \$20.88. Average rates of payment will also be determined for counties. Individual farm rates will vary up or down from the county average.

Payments will be made in the form of negotiable certificates which may be redeemed for cash or, under specified conditions, exchanged for grain.

More Money if Same Acres Used

Farmers who participated in any 1957 Acreage Reserve program, and who designate all or part of the identical acreage for the 1958 wheat Acreage Reserve, will receive for such acreage payments which are 10 percent larger than the regular per-acre payments for their farms in 1958.

Tenants and Sharecroppers

Where tenants or sharecroppers and landlords are to share in an Acreage Reserve payment, the agreement will state the payment to be made to the interested persons. This division of payments must be approved by the county ASC committee as "fair and equitable."

For details about how the 1958 winter wheat Acreage Reserve will work on your farm, see your County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office.